

First Corinthians Introduction

Recipients: their situation, attitudes, etc.

In Corinth 1:1

Enriched with speech and all knowledge 1:5

Not lacking spiritual gifts 1:7

Division in the church 1:10f.

Not wise or influential or of noble birth 1:26

Possibly enamored with wisdom and worldly stature leading to boasting 1:26-31

Not spiritual, but worldly 3:1-2

Some arrogant 4:18

Had questions about some issues 7:1

Some slave, some free 7:21-22

Had come out of paganism- some with weak conscience toward idols 8:1f.

Some in danger of idolatry 10:7

Some weak and sick and some died 11:30

Household of Stephanus Paul's first converts in Achaia 16:15

Opposition/ Opponents.

Not outsiders, but those within the church

Schism and parties 3:4, 1:12

Some of them arrogant 4:18

They say they "have a right to do anything" 6:12, 10:23

Some sit in judgement of Paul 9:3

Deny resurrection 15:12ff.

Paul's Situation and Attitudes.

Upbeat and hopeful 1:4-9

Frustrated and scolding 1:13, 15:34

Had preached to them 2:1 i.e. he knew them

Preached in weakness 2:1ff.

Disappointed with them 3:1ff.

Commends himself, but not in their terms 1:18f, esp. 4:1ff.

Sarcastic 4:8f.

Tenderness as father 4:14

Sending Timothy 4:17, 16:10

Threatening 4:18ff.

Had already written them a letter 5:9

Very strict on some issues (ch 6) but gives much latitude on others (ch 7)

Defensive 9:1ff.

Willing to do anything for the sake of the Gospel 9:19ff.

Plans to come to them 11:34, 4:18ff.

Encouraging 15:58

Going through Macedonia and then to Corinth 16:5

In Ephesus 16:8 has open door for effective work

Apollos will go to Corinth later 16:12

Occasion.

Divisions 1:10f.

Informed by Chloe's household 1:11

Pride and boasting 1:26-31

They think they are wise 3:18

Boasting about human leaders 3:21, 4:6

Report of incest 5:1ff. and their boasting about it

Lawsuit before unbelievers 6:1ff.

Sexual immorality 6:12ff.

They wrote him about some issues 7:1

Paul had already written them 5:9

They had questions about marriage 7:1ff

They had questions about virgins

They had questions about food sacrificed to idols 8:1ff.

They were in danger of idolatry 10:7

Problem of head covering? 11:2ff.

Problems in their meetings 11:17ff.

Divisions 10:18

Discrimination during their meals 11:20-22

Eating Lord's supper in unworthy manner 11:27

Uninformed about spiritual gifts 12:1

Lopsided view of gifts- no unity, improper distribution of gifts ch 12

No love ch 13

Speaking in tongues without interpretation ch 14

Disrupting services 14:26ff.

Problem with women speaking in church 14:34ff.

Deny resurrection 15:12ff

Sinning 15:33

Paul wants to prepare them for the collection 16:1

Stephanus, Fortunatus and Achaicus visited Paul 16:17-18

Summary: The church seems to have had a whole range of problems. Paul learned of them from various sources and addresses them in turn.